

FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS OF COCKINGTON COUNTRY PARK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AL FRESCO IN THE GROUNDS OF
WEAVERS COTTAGE (by kind permission of Karen and Paul) COCKINGTON ON
MONDAY 11th June 2018 AT 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Andy Baker, Pauline Baker, Robin Emdon (Vice Chair), Jill Read (Membership Secretary), John Read, Rita Jackson, Cllr Nicole Amil, Carolyn Almy, Jen Breen (TCCT), Katie Jones (LTV), Jenny Howard, Maggie Watts, Asa Moss, Matt Rogan (Breeze Radio), Hannah Petrakis (K and H Carriages), Mary Phillips (Minute Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Damien Offer, Hannah Worthington, Bob Tremayne, Carol and Gary Collins, Carolyn Perrett, Olwyn and Trevor Barker, Marissa Wakefield, Mardie Short, Margaret Carson, Peter Perret, Bob Tremayne .

Vice Chairman Robin Emdon introduced himself, explaining that the Chair had sent his apologies as he was on holiday. Robin welcomed all to the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March were ratified.

Vice Chairman's Report : Nothing to report

Membership Secretary's Report : Nothing to report

Minute Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

MATTERS ARISING from meeting held on Monday March 5th 2018

COMMENTS BOX

Nothing to report

FISH IN THE LAKES

Carp are re establishing themselves in the Lakes naturally. Young and mature fish have been seen by several of those present.

CAR PARKING

DO had submitted a written update (attached as an appendix) on this matter.

RE informed the meeting that he had come across a newspaper cutting (attached) from the Devon Journal August 1929, which sets out the decision of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, regarding parishioners' rights to access through the Park. It is apparent that there are clear regulations about vehicle access and pedestrian access. This is also reflected in An Historical Survey of Torquay by Arthur Ellis (1930) (attached). Specifically, that ONLY parishioners' have a Court ordered right of access (in perpetuity) on foot and by vehicle on the condition that they do NOT park.

GAMEKEEPER'S COTTAGE

Planting by volunteers is taking place around the building. Comment was made regarding the unsympathetic exterior lighting and that it should be replaced with vintage looking lamps more in keeping with the age and character of the building.

COPPICING

Discussion took place around the practice of Coppicing. KJ explained the process, including the practice of leaving stumps. MW was concerned about the number of dead trees lying around but it was agreed that we need dead wood in order to encourage bug life.

OFFICERS' EXPENSES

MP was satisfied with the current arrangements. (Support from TCCT).

VOLUNTEERS' REPORT

JB introduced herself as Hannah Worthington's assistant. This is a new role, assisting Hannah with events and generally engaging with the public and volunteers.

One of the volunteers said they had certain things they felt needed addressing. Others remarked that what was needed was a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator. It was agreed that this should be brought to the notice of the TCCT. Some volunteers didn't feel listened to, or supported or even know where to get support. ACTION

KJ said she was involved in a recruitment drive for volunteers, especially for the Visitors Centre. Katie also explained the process of applying via a simplified application form, followed by induction.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Plans are for a very low key, informal gathering of Friends on Saturday 18th August. Concern was raised re Public Liability Insurance by JR. The simple solution is to hold the picnic in the grounds of the Drum, dependent upon permission being granted by the Brewery.

DOG DAY

Volunteers required for this event on 19th August

YOUNGER VOLUNTEERS

Nothing to report

OFFER OF TREES

Nothing to report.

MAINTENANCE

Gary Collins and Neil Stanlake not being present, there was nothing to report.

DRUM INN SIGN

RE outlined the history of this Grade II listed sign by Dame Laura Knight. Arrangements were in place for refurbishment as it had finally been located, subject to Brewery agreement to finance the process.

DEFIBRILATOR

A request was made once again for a Defibrillator. Discussion took place about raising funds and possible sites to place one.

MP said she would enquire of St John Ambulance re the installation, hiring and service arrangements and costs. **ACTION**

NOTICE BOARD

Following the announcement of 3 new notice boards at the last meeting in March, it was rather a disappointment that these were not in situ. **ACTION**

Neil Stanlake and Gary Collins not being present meant we had no information about the refurbished notice board.

CONQUEROR WOOD

JR had reported to the Trust that the perimeter path was hazardous. Others had suggested taking their own cutting tools to help the problem. This type of guerilla gardening is not allowed due to health and safety implications. DO sent a response in writing (attached) saying he would follow this up. It was agreed by the meeting that we need to make known to the TCCT any areas of the Park which appear neglected. **ACTION**

PICNIC IN THE PARK

See above

TRAFFIC IN THE PARK

See above

BEWHAY LANE ENTRANCE

Discussion around the recent vehicular abuse of the lane included safety issues around dog walkers and children and carriage horses.

DO had sent a written response (attached) indicating that a new barrier was to be installed.

GRAZING FOR CARRIAGE HORSES

RE welcomed Hannah Petrakis, joint owner of K & H Carriages. He outlined the issue at hand. To sum up, K & H have a contract with the Trust which allows the grazing of horses on Trust land in return for payment. They now have 4 horses for the purposes of rotation and require more acreage for grazing. They have

approached the Trust but have been informed that there is no land available. An explanation from DO is attached.

HP said that they had approached the Council regarding renting land from them towards the top of the one way system on the outskirts of Cockington. The Mayor has thrown his strong support behind the carriage company. However there are issues with this land not least because it is a popular dog walking area, will require fencing, and distance from the stables (approx 1 mile).

Discussion took place about the state of summer and winter grazing near Lower Lodge, whether sheep could graze with horses and why some of the fields appear empty.

There was wholehearted support from the meeting, including Asa Moss who argued that Cockington's unique selling point is thatched cottages, quaint buildings and the horse and carriage.

It was unanimously agreed that The FVCCP approach the Trust with an urgent statement of support for K&H stating our expectation that the Trust has an obligation to support a thriving, viable business which epitomises the quintessential essence of Cockington.

This business attracts visitors who then use the park, the visitors' centre and other attractions. They are an invaluable asset to the 'Cockington' experience and it seems unbelievable that the Trust will not accommodate the request for more grazing acreage. **ACTION**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NB raised the issue of availability of water for the Horticultural Society who attend to the beautiful triangular flower bed at the entrance to the Park. She wondered if the Trust could formally be approached to provide a water butt or bowser. The gardeners are not in the first flush of youth and currently have to beg steal and borrow substantial amounts of water and climb the hill with it. At this time they are using the water butt in MP 's garden.

NB also raised the very poor state of the ground at the lych gate entrance to the Water Meadows. This matter has been raised time and time again with promises that it will be addressed. It was suggested that a formal approach to the Trust be made regarding this being an ongoing, hazardous situation which has not yet been addressed as promised.

MW stated that the area near the style in People's Field has recently resembled a quagmire and needs attention.

Matt Rogan asked why there were no longer Proms in the Park. There was a general consensus that issues around Public Liability were to blame for the demise of this very popular event.

On behalf of a visitor to the centre NB asked that something be done about the signage at the bus stop behind the VC as it is not clear from that spot where the VC is. NB was directed to take the matter up with Rebecca # VC Supervisor.

JR was pleased to report that the VC were now selling degradable 'poo' bags.

MP asked whether the Trustees could be invited to our next meeting. It was agreed that this would be a good idea for the purpose of meeting and engaging with them.

ACTION

There being no further business, The Vice Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.

Date and time of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd September 2018 at the Linhay Visitors' Centre at 18.30 hours.